

Pres. Fulbright, J. W. Russell, Richard

Censored Data On CIA Debate Is Released

A great deal about the Senate and its peculiar ways, its jealousies and even its gabbiness, and precious little about the Central Intelligence Agency and its operations marked the Senate's July 14 closed session dealing with the country's top spy organization.

This was revealed with the release last night of the censored version of the debate that went on in the closed meeting that lasted for 3 hours and 40 minutes.

Except for one matter involving the Bay of Pigs debacle, most of the references to the CIA operations were deleted from the transcript which fills 21½ pages in today's Congressional Record.

In the transcript made public there were more than 20 instances of censorship which were referred to delicately as "omissions" or "deletions" or simply by asterisks.

Representation at Issue

At issue in the closed session, the first since 1963 and the second since early in World War II, was whether the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should be given representation on the Senate group which maintains a sort of watchdog surveillance over the CIA.

The one reference to CIA operations involving the Bay of Pigs produced nothing essentially new. Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, brought it up in arguing for a committee voice—or ear—in overseeing the intelligence agency because he said it involved foreign policy.

Fulbright contended that the CIA was involved in making policy or in operations affecting foreign policy and for this reason his committee was entitled to representation on the watchdog group.

Fulbright recalled a State Department meeting with the late President John F. Kennedy, Allen Dulles, the former director of the CIA, and, he said, about 15 others before the Bay of Pigs invasion.

He told the Senate he heard Dulles "make the case for intervention in the Bay of Pigs" and added:

"I heard this with my own ears, with Allen Dulles promoting it. I was there for two hours . . . Allen Dulles was making a case for it and urging the President to make a final decision. This matter had been under way for a year. He wanted a final decision that would be a green light to proceed. . . ."

Raises Point of Order

There the matter was dropped, with Fulbright declaring that the general proposition seems to be that "the CIA operates very broadly and very deeply in the field of foreign relations."

The debate, over-all, centered on jurisdictional matters with Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., a veteran of many parliamentary battles, opposing the committee's proposal to have three of its members on the overseeing committee.

Russell raised the point of order that the committee's resolution should be referred to the Senate Armed Services Committee, which he heads, as having original jurisdiction over CIA matters.

In the public session that followed the closed meeting, Russell's views were sustained by a vote of 61 to 28.

Russell refused to promise anything, saying he would not act with a gun at his head.

One of the issues in the whole matter was whether there would be more likelihood of leaks if members were added to the committee that has not been known to disclose any secrets in its 17 years of existence.

Refers to Leaks

Senate Majority Whip Russell B. Long, D-La., supporting Russell's position, disclosed some instances of Senate gabbiness. He referred to a senator "who is no longer here" who leaked "some of our vital secrets" in 1952.

More recently, he said, there

was "something that happened at the White House" involving him and another senator that was supposed to be "a completely secret meeting." Long said it was published by Washington columnists.

Russell said that he had tried to work out a compromise but insisted that any selections from the Foreign Relations Committee should be based on seniority. Fulbright had refused, he said. "I think I have gone the last mile," Russell said.